

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 33. Amend claims 1 and 34. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:
a vibration conduction microphone including a housing, a transducer that is positioned in the housing and an acoustic isolator that is also positioned in the housing and disposed about the transducer;

a speaker enclosure including a speaker and arranged to couple vibrations from the speaker to bone of a wearer; and

attachment means coupled to each of said microphone and said speaker enclosure to facilitate attachment to an item of headgear for placement of said microphone and speaker enclosure against a rearward portion of the wearer's head in use.

Claims 2-4. (canceled)

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure that includes:

a housing for a speaker, the housing defining at least one opening:

a resilient diaphragm that is attached to the housing and that is configured to make contact with the head of a person, in use; and

a membrane that is arranged on the housing to seal the at least one opening so that the speaker is shielded from water.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in claim 5, in which the housing defines first and second openings.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in claim 6, in which the resilient diaphragm is arranged on the housing to seal the first opening and the membrane is arranged on the housing to seal the second opening.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, in which an acoustically transparent cover is positioned on the housing to protect the second opening.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, in which a speaker is mounted in the housing and an electrical cable is connected to the speaker to transmit electrical signals to the speaker, the housing defining an aperture for accommodating the electrical cable and a sealant being interposed between the cable and the housing, the sealant being selected to provide strain relief to the electrical cable.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in claim 9, in which a mounting means is arranged on the housing, the mounting means being configured to receive a strap, belt or the like.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): A speaker enclosure as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, in which a transducer is arranged in the housing adjacent the resilient diaphragm so that the speaker enclosure can be used to pick up vibrations from a wearer as well as to transfer vibrations to the wearer.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): A vibration conduction microphone that includes:
a housing;
a transducer that is positioned in the housing; and
an acoustic isolator that is also positioned in the housing, the acoustic isolator being disposed about the transducer.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A vibration conduction microphone according to claim 12, wherein the acoustic isolator includes a visco-elastic material.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A vibration conduction microphone according to claim 13, wherein the acoustic isolator further includes a holder for holding the visco-elastic material.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A vibration conduction microphone according to claim 14,

wherein the transducer comprises an accelerometer.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A vibration conduction microphone according to claim 15, wherein the housing comprises a flexible body configured to receive the accelerometer, acoustic isolator and holder.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A helmet mountable communications apparatus, including transducing means consisting of a vibration conduction microphone and/or a speaker enclosure; wherein, the transducing means is mounted at the rear of the helmet so that in use the transducing means contacts the rear of a wearer's head.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A helmet mountable communications apparatus according to claim 17 including both the vibration conduction microphone and the speaker conduction.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A helmet mountable communications apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the vibration conduction microphone comprises a vibration conduction microphone according to any one of claims 12 to 16.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A helmet mountable communications apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the speaker enclosure comprises a speaker enclosure according to any one of claims 5 to 11.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A helmet mountable communications apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the transducing means is mounted to an internal support of the helmet.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the speaker enclosure includes:
a first region to couple vibrations from the speaker to bones of the wearer's head; and
a second region to couple vibrations from said speaker element to air for conventional hearing by the wearer.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said speaker enclosure includes:
a housing about a speaker; and
a resilient diaphragm attached to the housing, said diaphragm comprising the first region to couple vibrations from the speaker to bones of the wearer's head;
the housing defining at least one opening comprising the second region to couple vibrations from said speaker to air for conventional hearing by the wearer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 23, including a membrane arranged on the housing to seal the at least one opening thereby shielding the speaker from water.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 24, including an acoustically transparent cover for the first opening.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 23, including an electrical cable connected to the speaker to transmit electrical signals to the speaker, the housing defining an aperture accommodating the electrical cable and a sealant interposed between the cable and the housing, the sealant being selected to provide strain relief to the electrical cable.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 23, in which a transducer is arranged in the housing adjacent the resilient diaphragm so that the speaker enclosure can be used to pick up vibrations from the wearer as well as to transfer vibrations to the wearer.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises:
a first headgear strap engagement means fast with the vibration conduction microphone to receive a strap of the headgear; and

a second headgear strap engagement means fast with the vibration conduction speaker enclosure to receive said, or an additional, strap of the headgear.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the first and second headgear strap engagement means include recesses formed into respective bodies of the vibration conduction microphone and the vibration conduction speaker enclosure to receive the headgear straps.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a support structure to which the vibration conduction microphone and the vibration conduction speaker enclosure are mounted.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the headgear comprises a helmet and wherein the attachment means is adapted to be mounted to an internal support of the helmet.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the headgear comprises a helmet and wherein the attachment means is adapted to be connected to a nape adjustment strap of the helmet.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim ~~33~~1, wherein the acoustic isolator includes a visco-elastic material.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the acoustic isolator further includes a holder for holding the visco-elastic material.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the transducer comprises an accelerometer.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A communication apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the housing comprises a flexible body configured to receive the accelerometer, acoustic isolator and holder.